Insecticide contents in fishes

3672. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR scientists have found that popular fish like Rohu, Mangur, Singhi, etc. are showing high quantities of toxic insecticides like aldrin, endosulphan, DDT and DDE;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these insecticides form another dangerous chemical heterochloro hexane;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to save consumers of these fishes from the adverse effects of these insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The studies have shown that toxic insecticides like aldrin, endosulphan, DDT and DDE in fish like Rohu are not high in quantity and normally below 300 ppb (total organochlorine pesticides), *i.e.* below safe limits as per US FDA guidelines. However, the data for fishes like Mangur and Singhi, etc. are not available.

(b) and (c) Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH or BHC) is the chemical name of the marketed compound, lindane and is not related to insecticides like aldrin, endosulphan, DDT and DDE.

(d) Since the detected organochlorine pesticide residues in fish samples are below the permissible limit, they are safe for human consumption, with regard to pesticide residues.

Review of the performance of agriculture sector

3673. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce reforms in agriculture sector to improve investments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed, of late, the overall performance of this sector; and

(d) if so, the major findings of such a review?